carried out in a manner which seeks to economise resources and utilise our indigenous capacities and defence production infrastructure to the maximum. At the same time, imports are considered on a selective basis to fill critical gaps.

Extradition Proceedings with Nepal

1659. MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated extradition proceeding with Nepal against criminals particularly against domestic servants who fled to Nepal after committing heinous crimes in India;

(b) if so, the details of such proceedings during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the response of the Government of Nepal in such proceedings and the number of criminals/domestic servants who were extradited to India from Nepal during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) to (c) Extradition proceedings against criminals have not been initiated as yet. However, some modalities in consultation with His Majesty's Government of Nepal have been worked out to bring back and initiate trial of criminals including domestic servants who have fled to Nepal after committing heinous crimes in India. These modalities have been communicated to State Governments for further appropriate action at their end.

Cost of fake notes

1660. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the incidents of preparation of fake 'notes from the soiled mutilated currency notes;

(b) whether Government have detected the persons involved in this activity; and

(c) if so, the measures proposed to b taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH1 MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIR (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a to (c) The preparation of fake notes fror soiled mutilated currency notes has nc come to notice. However, availabl information about the incidence of crim relating to 'Counter-feiting' during th years 1992, 1993 and 1994 is give below:—

Year	Incidents	Persor arreste
1992	5133	106
1993	3728	129
1994	2851	123

The State Governments/UI Administrations have been instructed t tighten the machinery to tackle th problem of counterfeiting of India currency. The RBI issues press releast from time to time to enable the public t distinguish between genuine and fak currency notes. The CBI has created Special Unit for exclusive investigation < counterfeit currency notes.

New Equipment Schemes for Armc Forces

1661. DR. D. VENKATESHWA RAO: Will the Minister of DEFENC be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government ha\ projected Rs. 20,000 crores for varioi defence equipment projects for tr Army, Navy and Air Force;

(b) if so, whether number of schemi were prepared by the armed forces ar they could not be undertaken during tl last 5 years;

(c) if so, whether Government a: considering various steps to improve oi Army, Navy and Air Force to meet tl threat posed by our neighboures lil China and Pakistan; and

(d) if so, whether any concrete steps in his regard have been worked out?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (d) The equirement of funds is estimated by the Ministry of Defence, in consultation with he Service Headquarters on the basis of nticipated, obligatory and contractual layments, regular and recurrent xpenditure as well as new schemes under the ongoing modernisation programme of the Defence Services. The equirement of funds for the current year /as projectd by the Ministry of Defence o the Ministry of Finance, to enable a lecision on the actual allocation, keeping i view the overall availability of national esources, national security and the equirements of different sectors.

Modernisation of our Armed Forces is n on-going process which takes into ccount the changing threat scenario, the dvancement of technology, the global nd regional security environment and h*e* availability of resources. A concerted xercise was undertaken this year, as in revious years to determine the priorities f modernisation, and the resources to be llocated in this context.

Diversion of National Highway-54

1662. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTA-:HARJEE: Will the Minister of ;URFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to tate:

(a) the latest position on the diversion if National Highways-54 at Ramnagar lear Silchar Town;

(b) whether the project has been leared and funds sanctioned;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the latest position of the approach oad of Katakhal bridge on National highway-54?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T. G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) to (c) Alignment for diversion is approved. However, the bridge over river Barak at Badrighat on the bypass is under finalisation. During 1996-97 funds have been provided for payment of compensation for land.

(d) The approach road was sanctioned in February, 1996 and the work is in progress. The two Railway overbridges in the approaches are being entrusted to Railways.

New Telephone Exchanges in Karnataka

1663. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up new telephone exchanges with latest technology in Karnataka during the current year; and

(b) if so, the names of the places where these are proposed to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New Telephone Exchanges with the latest technology are planned for commissioning at Mysore, Bangalore, Belgaum and Hubli in Karnataka during 1996-97.

Extension of reservation for SCs/STs/ OBCs in Defence Services

1664. SHRI PARAG CHALIHA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering extension of reservations for SCs/STs/ OBCs in recruitment to defence services; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?